116, 173, 539

"The following is the legend of the origin of fire and of the Apotheosis of two Heroes, by the aborigines of Tasmania, as related by a native of the Oyster Bay Tribe: 'My father, my grandfather, all of them lived a long time ago, all over the country; they had no fire. Two black fellows came, they slept at the foot of a hill--a hill in my own country. On the summit of a hill they were seen by my fathers, my countrymen, on the top of the hill they were seen standing: they threw fire like a star, --it fell among the black men, my countrymen. They were frightened--they fled away, all of them; after a while they returned, --they hastened and made a fire, --a fire with wood; no more was fire lost in our land. The two black fellows are in the clouds; in the clear night you see them like two stars. (1) These are they who brought fire to my fathers. The two black men stayed awhile in the land of my fathers. Two women (Lowanna) were bathing; it was near a rocky shore, where mussels were plentiful. The women were sulky, they were sad; their husbands were faithless, they had gone with two girls. The women were lonely; they were swimming in the water, they were diving for crayfish. A sting-ray lay concealed in the hollow of a rock--a large sting-ray! The sting-ray was large, he had a very

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"1. Castor and Pollux."

long spear; from his hole he spied the women, he saw them dive; he pierced them with his spear, --he killed them, he carried them away. Awhile they were gone out of sight. The sting-ray returned, he came close in shore, he lay in still water, near the sandy beach; with him were the women, they were fast on his spear--they were dead!

The two black men fought the sting-ray; they slew him with their spears; they killed him; --the women were dead! The two [98] black men made a fire, -- a fire of wood. On either side they laid a woman, --the fire was between: the women were dead!

The black men sought some ants, some blue ants (puggany eptietta); they placed them on the bosoms (parugga poingta) of the women. Severely, intensely were they bitten. The women revived, --they lived once more. Soon there came a fog (maynentayana), a fog dark as night. The two black men went away, the women disappeared: they passed through the fog, the thick, dark fog! Their place is in the clouds. Two stars you see in the clear cold night; the two black men are there, the women are with them: they are stars above!' (Milligan, Papers, etc., Roy. Soc. of Tas. III. p. 274)."